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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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## *House of Representatives*

*Statement of the Honorable Tom Udall*

*New Mexico – Third District*

*September 12, 2001*

December 7, 1941. September 17, 1862. November 22, 1963. Pearl Harbor – The Day which Lives in Infamy. The Battle of Antietam – America's Bloodiest Day. The Assassination of President Kennedy – The Loss of America's Innocence. These dates have profound meaning in the Nation's eternal memory. They had an immeasurable impact on the American way of life, and the effects remain with us today. Transcending tragedy, the horrific events of these dates reach to a level that changes everything we know and ever will know about our world, our country, and ourselves.

Hoping against hope, we prayed that this terrible list would not grow, but we must now add Tuesday, September 11, 2001 to the grim list.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday our great Nation suffered the most violent and costly attack on American soil in our nation's history, and our lives will never be the same. The attack was aimed at the heart of our country, and the attackers hoped to break the spirit of our citizens.

The cowards who attacked us clearly misunderstood the strength of character and resolve of the American people. We do not back down in the face of hardship, and we will prevail over our enemies, no matter how long it takes.

Terrorists may shatter our buildings, but they cannot shatter our commitment to the values we hold most dear: freedom, democracy, liberty, opportunity. We must commit ourselves today not only to defend ourselves and punish those who attacked us, we must also commit to rebuild the lives and the innocence that have been shattered. As the scope of the devastation becomes clearer, our task will only grow more serious and important, but I know that we will rebuild our world.

As we move forward to rebuild what has been shattered, we must put our world back together in a way that is mindful of not only our profoundly rich history and traditions but is also mindful of that which connects all of humanity. We are blessed by

the assistance and efforts of countless rescue workers who are risking their lives to rescue victims; I commend their courageous work and believe that their efforts should be examples to us all as we each make our own contributions to the recovery efforts.

Finally, we must not let feelings of anger and frustration rob us of the very things that make our country great. Make no mistake, we will find those responsible for these terrible attacks, and hold them responsible. In doing so, however, we must be thoughtful, careful, and deliberate. We must and will remain vigilant in the defense of the liberties of our citizens. America can be safe and free, and our best days remain before us. God bless America.